

# Affordable-housing project approved by council

An affordable-housing project planned for Main Street and Pennsylvania Drive received approval from the Watsonville City Council last night.

The project, called Parajonian Villages, would place 26 two-, three- and four-bedroom rental units on two parcels at 1160 Main St. and 170 Pennsylvania Drive.

If all goes as planned, Parajonian Villages will be the first project to be completed by the 2-year-old Pajaro Valley Affordable Housing Corporation, which has several other low-income projects in the works.

Kathy Bernard, executive director of the housing organization, said she expects the project to be

completed in early 1992.

In order to qualify for the units, renters have to derive 25 percent of their income from farm work and make 80 percent or less of the median income in the county. Some Red Cross funds are being used for the project, and earthquake victims are being given first priority. Bernard said a list for the apartments has already been started.

In other housing news:

- The council voted to give \$5,000 in matching funds to an association of tenants at a Watsonville mobile home park who are looking at purchasing the park.

The money, which comes from a housing fund the city set up with

earthquake relief funds, will be used by the Meadows Mobile Manor Tenants Association and the Pajaro Valley Affordable Housing Corp. to do a study on how the association could purchase the mobile home park, which is currently on the market.

If the tenants are able to buy the park, they will return the money to the city.

The tenants have raised some funds, but haven't been able to pull enough money together to make an offer on the park. A study is being proposed in order to review financing options and the legal work needed for the purchase.

City Manager Steve Salomon recommended the city's support

for the tenants in a memo to the council, saying "it is my understanding that this type of project is one which the council hopes to facilitate through the establishment of the housing fund."

The council voted unanimously to help the association.

- The city will be working out the details of its proposed inclusionary ordinance with a consultant over the holidays in the hopes of being able to vote on the measure at its first meeting in January.

The cost of the study will be \$4,500 at the most.

—Chela Zabin

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